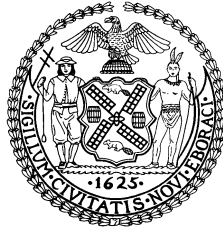


James G. Clynes
Chairman

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

June 18, 2015

New York State Senator Liz Krueger
28th Senatorial District
1850 Second Avenue
Ground Floor
New York, NY 10128

RE: New York State Senator Liz Krueger's Marijuana Tax and Regulate Bill

Dear Senator Krueger.:

At the June 17, 2015 Full Board meeting, Community Board 8M adopted the following resolution by a vote of 28 in favor, 6 opposed and 6 abstentions.

Whereas the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (S.1747/A.3089-A), introduced by Sen. Liz Krueger, which would legalize, regulate and tax marijuana under state law along lines similar to the state's current system regulating alcohol, as well as the legalization models being implemented in Colorado and Washington, is presently in the NYS Senate's Finance Committee and the NYS Assembly's Codes Committee respectively; and

Whereas cannabis (marijuana) is categorized under Title 21 United States Code (USC) Controlled Substances Act ("CSA"), as a Schedule I drug, one with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse -- Schedule I drugs are the most dangerous drugs of all the drug schedules with potentially severe psychological or physical dependence --; and

Whereas this Schedule I status under the CSA severely limits medical research into both risks and benefits of cannabis use and abuse; and

Whereas this federal restriction is unlikely to change in the near future absent significant upward pressure from state legislatures, of which 23 have enacted some expansion of cannabis use; and

Whereas the federal code's criteria for Schedule I status of cannabis is being increasingly challenged by medical researchers and clinicians as well as legal, correctional and criminal justice professionals concerned about the impact of arrests for marijuana possession on young men, particularly African-American and Hispanic inner city males and the overall U.S. prison population, one of the highest per capita in the world; and

Whereas the proposed legislation at least provides an opportunity for the New York State legislature to begin what is likely to be a lengthy exploration of how the State of New York will ultimately address the issue of medical and recreational use of cannabis;

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board #8 Manhattan urges its elected officials to support the Senate Finance and Assembly Codes Committee's consideration of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (S.1747/A.3089-A) so that the full Senate and Assembly may begin a serious discussion of this matter.

Sincerely,

James G. Clynes
Chairman

David Liston and Jacqueline Ludorf
Co-Chairs, Health, Seniors & Social Services Committee

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Hon. Dan Quart, 73rd Assembly District
Hon. Rebecca Seawright, 76th Assembly District
Hon. Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Brad Usher, Chief of Staff, NYS Senator Liz Krueger, 28th Senatorial District